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FIELDIANA • ZOOLOGY

Published by
CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Volume 34

JULY 24, 1953

No. 17

A NEW WORM SNAKE FROM COLOMBIA Genus *Anomalepis*

HYMEN MARX
ASSISTANT, DIVISION OF REPTILES

SEP 10 1953

It gives me much pleasure to add the genus *Anomalepis* to the herpetological fauna of Colombia, the two known species being from Perico, Peru, and Panama. I wish to thank Mr. Arthur Loveridge of the Museum of Comparative Zoology for the loan of three paratypes of the Peruvian *Anomalepis aspinosus* for comparison.

Anomalepis colombia sp. nov.

Type.—Chicago Natural History Museum no. 54986 from La Selva, Pueblo Rico, Department of Caldas, Colombia. Altitude 1,700 meters. Collected by Kjell von Sneidern in January, 1946.

Diagnosis.—This new species is similar to the two known forms from Panama and Peru except in the higher number of scale rows and the number of scales on the mid-line from rostral to terminal plate. The differences are as follows:

| | Neck | Scale formula | | Dorsal scales along mid-line |
|--|-------|---------------|----------|------------------------------|
| | | Mid-body | Pre-anal | |
| <i>A. mexicanus</i> Jan and Sordelli.. | 28 | 22 | 22 | 267-272 |
| <i>A. aspinosus</i> Taylor..... | 28-31 | 24-26 | 24 | 320-343 |
| <i>A. colombia</i> sp. nov..... | 32 | 28 | 26 | 365 |

Description of type.—Snout rounded, moderately prominent; nostrils lateral; rostral from above not extending behind nostrils; prefrontals and frontal about equal in length; prefrontals asymmetrical and dissimilar, narrowed in front and behind, somewhat longer than broad, forming a long suture three-fourths of length of frontal; frontal as long as broad; two enlarged nuchals immediately posterior to frontal, flanked laterally by three enlarged scales; one supraocular in contact with prefrontals; two preoculars, superior preocular (divided on right side) in contact with nasal, inferior preocular separated from the nasal by the loreal; one small ocular; two small suboculars;

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two postoculars; a relatively large undivided nasal with the nostril very close to the anterior labial border; one relatively large loreal in contact with the nasal, both preoculars, and first, second, and third upper labials; four upper labials; the first upper labial twice as high as long, in contact with the rostral, nasal, and loreal, widely separating the nasal from the mouth; a small second labial in contact with the loreal; a large third labial in contact with the loreal, inferior preocular, and anterior subocular; a very small fourth labial separated from the ocular by the suboculars and a small shield; two lower labials on the right side and three lower labials on the left side; a single tooth on each side of the lower jaw, no teeth visible in the upper jaw.

A pair of enlarged preanal plates in contact posteriorly and separated anteriorly by an enlarged scale. Scale row formula 32-30-28-26-26, with 28 scale rows at mid-body. Scales between rostral and terminal plate 365; no terminal spine; scales under tail 8. Total length 171 mm.; tail length 2.5 mm.; diameter of body 3.5 mm.

Color light brown, the scales with lighter edges. Ventral coloration same as dorsal coloration.

Remarks.—The considerable taxonomic literature in which *Anomalepis* is discussed is reviewed by Dunn (1941). With these publications at hand, the distinction of the Colombian form is unmistakable. Dunn (1944) remarks that *Anomalepis* is to be expected in Colombia.

REFERENCES

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1941. Notes on the snake genus *Anomalepis*. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 87: 509-526, figs. 1-5.

1944. A review of the Colombian snakes of the families Typhlopidae and Lepotyphlopidae. *Caldasia*, 3: 47-55, figs. 1-10.

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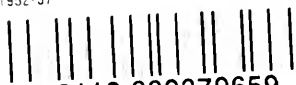
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